

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 10, 2004, is acknowledged. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 15-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,715,732 to Kumar. Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kumar in view of U.S. Patent 5,785,297 to Ha. Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kumar in view of U.S. Patent 4,834,337 to Chorkey *et al.* Claims 23-36 have been allowed, and claims 9, 10, and 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration of the rejection that claim 1 is anticipated by Kumar.¹ Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of "an armature, a movable fluid control member, and at least one spring biasing the armature into contact with the fluid control member." Kumar, however, lacks any such structure or teaching. First, the fluid control members 55 and 140 in Kumar do not contact by the respective armatures 10 and 170. Rather, fluid control member 55 is connected to armature 10 through armature retainer 25, and fluid control member 140 is connected to armature 170 through poppet stem 116 and armature retainer 160. Furthermore, the connections between armatures 10 and 170 in Kumar and fluid control members 55 and 140, respectively, are not maintained through contact caused by a biasing spring. Rather, the fluid control members are mechanically connected through connecting members to the armature. For example, fluid control member (valve poppet) 140 is mounted to poppet stem 116, which in turn is mounted

¹ Applicant notes the Examiner's rejection to Kumar under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is technically incorrect. The Kumar patent did not issue until April 6, 2004, which is after the filing the date of the application of August 27, 2003. However, Applicant is responding to the Office Action by assuming that Examiner actually intended to refer to the publication of Kumar, U.S. Patent Application Publication Number U.S. 2001/0025940 A1 published on October 4, 2001.

in a threaded axial bore 161 of armature retainer 160 (column 6, lines 43-46). Additionally, armature retainer 160 has an externally threaded nose end 162, which is sized to be threaded into an interior bore 172 of armature 170 (Figure 4 and column 7, lines 3-6). Accordingly, the armature 170 in Kumar is not biased by the spring members 190 and 191 into contact with the fluid control member 140 as required by claim 1.

As claim 1 is not anticipated by Kumar, dependent claims 2-10 are also not anticipated and are allowable.

As amended, claim 11 requires that the diameter of the central opening of the core member adjacent the second shoulder is greater than the diameter of the central opening adjacent the first shoulder. In a Telephone Conference on March 31, 2005, the Examiner indicated that he was considering spacer 180 in Kumar as the core member recited in claim 11. Spacer 180 has a uniform diameter so that the diameter is the same adjacent both the upper and lower ends/shoulders. Accordingly, Kumar does not anticipate claim 11.

Accordingly, dependent claims 15-22, which depend from claim 11 are also not anticipated and are allowable.

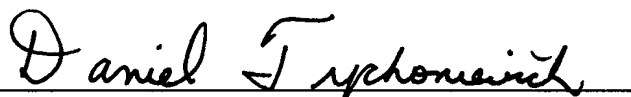
Applicant has also amended claim 12 into independent form to include the limitations of original claim 11, as Examiner indicated such a claim would be allowable. Accordingly, dependent claims 13 and 14 are allowable.

Having fully responded to the Office Action, Applicant considers pending claims 1-36 to be in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowability therefore. Applicant notes that certain claims have been amended solely to advance prosecution of the Application and to obtain allowance on clearly allowable claims at the earliest possible date. Therefore, no admission may be inferred by the amendments to the claims herein. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments regarding the attached amendments or above remarks. If necessary to effect a timely response, please consider this paper a petition for extension of time sufficient to make

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this response timely and charge any shortage or fees or apply any overpayments or credits to Baker & Daniels LLP's Deposit Account 02-0387 (75588.34). However, please do not include the payment of Issue Fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 9, 2005

Date



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